

Chapter 1

Issue Categories

1.1 INTRODUCTION

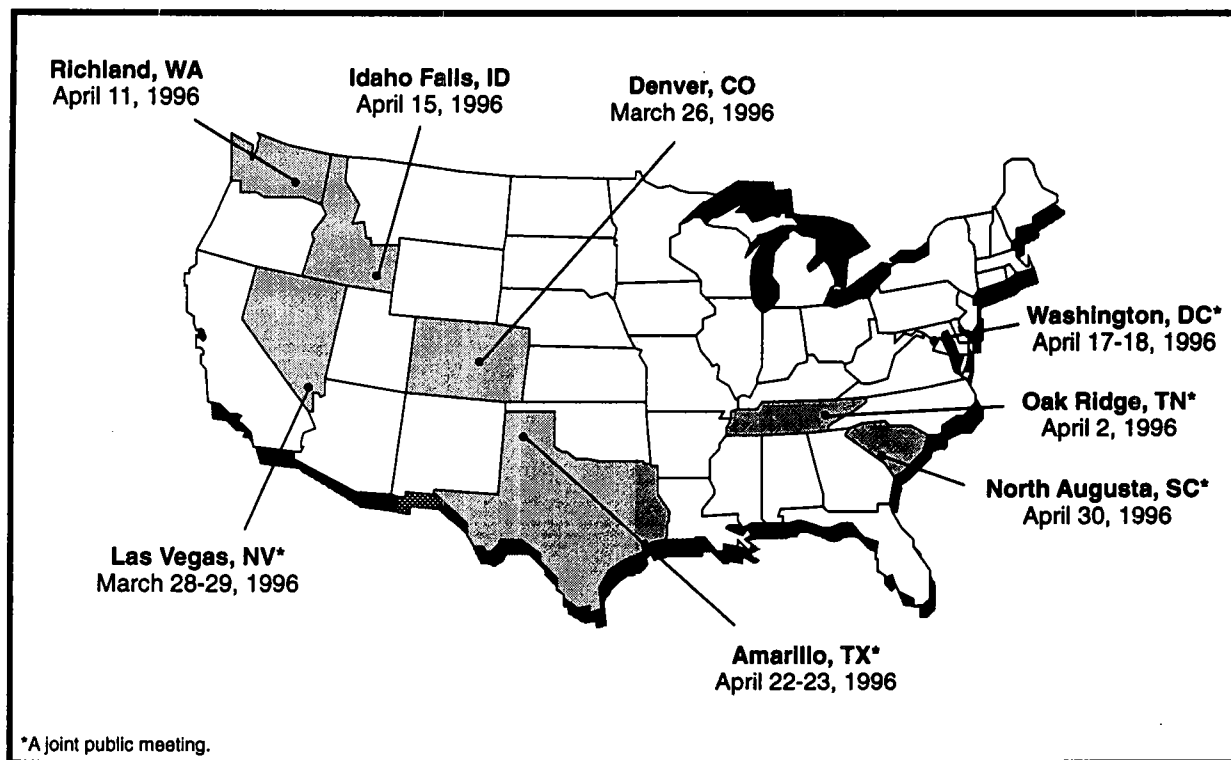
In February 1996, the Department of Energy (DOE) published the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS). This PEIS analyzes the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of reasonable alternatives for the long-term storage and disposition of weapons-usable fissile materials. Following the guidelines set forth in the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA), DOE established a comment period to allow the public to review and comment on the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS. The public comment period was originally from March 8 through May 7, 1996 (61 FR 9443); however, in response to public request, DOE extended the comment period through June 7, 1996 (61 FR 22038). Comments were accepted as late as June 24, 1996.

During the comment period, public meetings were held at eight locations. Figure 1.1–1 shows the dates and locations of these meetings. Five of the public meetings were joint meetings to obtain comments on both the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS and the *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management* (Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS). Two of the joint meetings (Amarillo, Texas, and North Augusta, South Carolina) also included the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapons Components* (Pantex EIS). The public meetings were directed by a neutral facilitator, and comments and concerns were recorded by notetakers.¹ In addition to public meetings, the public was encouraged to provide comments via mail, fax, telephone (toll-free number), and electronic bulletin board (Internet).

Attendance at each meeting and the number of comments recorded and documents received via other methods during the public comment period are presented in Tables 1.1–1 and 1.1–2, respectively. Attendance numbers for the public meetings were based on the number of participants who completed and returned registration forms. A number of comment documents submitted during the public meetings were recorded as part of the minutes. In some instances, the same comment documents were also submitted as hand-ins at the end of the meeting. In these cases, these documents were analyzed once, as part of the minutes or as stand-alone comment documents. A list appears at the beginning of each public meeting response document showing all the hand-ins that were included as part of the minutes and the page numbers on which they can be found in the *Comment Response Document* (CRD).

Each comment document received by mail, fax, telephone, or electronic bulletin board was marked with the date of receipt and assigned a sequential document number according to its origin (for example, F-001 was assigned to a faxed submission, this tracking code appears in the lower right-hand corner of the scan). The document then was processed through the comment analysis and response system for inclusion in the CRD. A total of 6,543 comment documents were submitted by various organizations and individuals. Several comment documents addressed the Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS and Pantex EIS. Copies of these documents were forwarded to those programs for inclusion in the corresponding CRDs. These comments were not addressed in the Storage and Disposition CRD.

¹ In order to ensure that all comments were accurately recorded by the notetakers, transcripts of the proceedings of each meeting were taken. These transcripts are not included in the Storage and Disposition CRD, but have been archived in the Administrative Record for the PEIS.



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Figure 1.1-1. Dates and Locations of Public Meetings.

Table 1.1-1. Meeting Attendance and Comments

Public Meetings	Attendance	Comments
Denver, CO	39	33
Las Vegas, NV	71	40
Oak Ridge, TN	84	12
Richland, WA	107	24
Idaho Falls, ID	75	34
Washington, DC	132	35
Amarillo, TX	102	17
North Augusta, SC	124	55
Total	734	250

Table 1.1-2. Document and Comment Submission Overview

Method of Submission	Documents Received	Comments
Hand-ins at Public Meetings	61	182
Mail-in	159	922
Campaign Documents (letters, postcards, hand-ins)	6,203	6,829
Fax	58	410
Telephone	54	75
Electronic Bulletin Board	8	24
Total	6,543	8,442

1.2 ORGANIZATION

The CRD has been organized into the following sections:

- Chapter 1 describes the comment analysis and response process.
- Chapter 2 presents the changes made to the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS.
- Chapter 3 presents the scanned images of original documents received during the public comment period. These images are marked with sidebars denoting the identified comments, and the responses that correspond to those comments.

Tables are provided at the end of this chapter to assist readers in locating comments regarding the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS. Comments were identified and categorized by issue (for example, Policy/Purpose and Need/Scope) and assigned a six-digit issue bin number. An issue bin is the term used for a general topic under which to identify like comments for proper response. Table 1.2–1 lists the issue categories and corresponding issue bin numbers. Issue bins are divided into three separate categories defined as Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. Level 1 issue bins include the various Fissile Materials Disposition Program topics included in the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS. Level 2 issue bins represent a subdivision of the Level 1 topics and provide for further definition of the specific topic. Level 2 issue bins include the various storage and disposition alternatives and environmental resource/issue areas evaluated in the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS. Level 3 issue bins designate the specific site at which the specific topic and/or alternative may occur. The majority of identified comments were responded to on a one-to-one basis. Comments that are similar in content were given the same response.

Table 1.2–2 identifies public meeting attendees and the location of comments and responses from each meeting. Table 1.2–3 lists the individuals, agencies, companies, organizations, and special interest groups that submitted comment documents. Commentors are listed alphabetically by last name or organization name, along with the corresponding page number on which the actual comment document appears. Also listed in this table are the issue bin numbers assigned to the comments found within each document.

For convenience, the information in Table 1.2–3 was then broken out into three separate tables. Table 1.2–4 lists the agencies, companies, organizations, and special interest groups that submitted comments, corresponding page numbers on which the actual comments appear, and assigned issue bin numbers. Table 1.2–5 provides an alphabetical list of individuals who submitted comments, corresponding page numbers on which the actual comments appear, and assigned issue bin numbers. Table 1.2–6 lists those documents considered to be multiple signatory² documents, page numbers on which the actual comments appear, and assigned issue bin numbers.

As discussed in Section 1.1, documents were received by mail, fax, telephone, or electronic bulletin board. In some instances, multiple documents were received from a single commentor. To ensure that all comments submitted by an individual or organization were included in the CRD, multiple documents were treated simultaneously. If, during the review, variations in the documents were identified, the documents were treated separately. If the documents were identical (presenting verbatim comments), only one of the documents was reviewed and scanned for inclusion in the CRD. Commentors wishing to view comments similar in content should refer to Table 1.2–7, which lists the issue bins in which comments were grouped and the page numbers where the comments are located. Multiple page numbers indicate several comments on the same issue. In addition, Tables 1.2–8 through 1.2–14 list commentors who submitted documents that were classified as postcard or letter campaigns. The postcards and letters were part of campaigns conducted by various organizations and special interest groups to express either support of or opposition to the Fissile Materials Disposition Program. Although many postcards and letters were received for these campaigns, only one scanned image is shown in Chapter 3 for each campaign.

² A multiple signatory document is a document that has been signed by more than two individuals.